

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A dielectric filter comprising:
a dielectric block;
a plurality of conductive through holes arranged in the dielectric block, each of the conductive through holes having an open end along a first surface of the dielectric block;
a respective single coupling electrode connected to each conductive through hole, each coupling electrode formed on the first surface of the dielectric block and extended at least to a first edge of the dielectric block, the coupling electrodes having a common and continuous, non-conductive gap therebetween shared by the respective coupling electrodes and generating a capacitance therebetween so as to couple the plurality of conductive through holes; and
an outer conductor arranged on outer surfaces of the dielectric block.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~The dielectric filter according to Claim 1,~~
comprising:
a dielectric block;
a plurality of conductive through holes arranged in the dielectric block, each of the conductive through holes having an open end along a first surface of the dielectric block;
a respective coupling electrode connected to each conductive through hole, each coupling electrode formed on the first surface of the dielectric block and extended at least to a first edge of the dielectric block, the coupling electrodes having a common and continuous, non-conductive gap therebetween shared by the respective coupling electrodes and generating a capacitance therebetween so as to couple the plurality of conductive through holes; and
an outer conductor arranged on outer surfaces of the dielectric block,

wherein the coupling electrodes further extend onto a second surface of the dielectric block which intersects the first edge of the dielectric block.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A The dielectric filter according to Claim 1, further~~ comprising:

a dielectric block;

a plurality of conductive through holes arranged in the dielectric block, each of the conductive through holes having an open end along a first surface of the dielectric block;

a respective single coupling electrode connected to each conductive through hole, each coupling electrode formed on the first surface of the dielectric block and extended at least to a first edge of the dielectric block, the coupling electrodes having a common and continuous, non-conductive gap therebetween shared by the respective coupling electrodes and generating a capacitance therebetween so as to couple the plurality of conductive through holes;

an outer conductor arranged on outer surfaces of the dielectric block; and

input/output electrodes arranged on a second surface of the dielectric block and extending from a second edge, opposing the first edge, to generate capacitances between the open ends of the conductive through holes and the input/output electrodes.

4. (Original) A dielectric duplexer comprising a pair of dielectric filters according to Claim 3, one input/output electrode of one filter being usable as a transmission-signal input electrode, one input/output electrode of the other filter being usable as a reception-signal output electrode, and the other respective input/output electrodes of both filters being connected together and to an antenna-connecting electrode.

5. (Original) A communication apparatus comprising a high-frequency circuit and, connected thereto, the dielectric filter according to one of Claims 1 and 2.

6. (Original) A communication apparatus comprising a high-frequency circuit and, connected thereto, the dielectric duplexer according to Claim 4.

7. (Previously Presented and Allowed) A dielectric filter comprising:
a dielectric block;
a plurality of conductive through holes arranged in the dielectric block, each of the conductive through holes having a open end along a first surface of the dielectric block;
a respective coupling electrode connected to each conductive through hole, each coupling electrode formed on the first surface of the dielectric block and extended at least to a first edge of the dielectric block, the respective coupling electrodes having a gap therebetween and generating a capacitance therebetween so as to couple the plurality of conductive through holes; and
an outer conductor arranged on outer surfaces of the dielectric block; and
input/output electrodes arranged on a third surface of the dielectric block and extending from a second edge, opposing the first edge, to generate capacitances between the open ends of the conductive through holes and the input/output electrodes, wherein the coupling electrodes further extend onto a second surface of the dielectric block which intersects the first edge of the dielectric block.